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## **Hib VACCINE SUPPLY CRISIS VACCINE SHORTAGE EXTENDED COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY!**

October 24, 2008

Dear Physician,

**On October 17, 2008, Merck released a public statement that they will not return to the Hib vaccine market until mid-2009.**

- Merck was anticipating returning to the U.S. Hib vaccine market during the fourth quarter of 2008.
- Merck now projects a return to the U.S. market during mid-2009.

- 1) Monthly allocations of ActHIB are not sufficient to meet demand.
- 2) Hib 4<sup>th</sup> dose deferral continues.
- 3) **Pentacel will need to be used to provide the Hib primary series.**

### **Hib Booster Deferral Information**

- All children should receive the PRIMARY Hib series routinely given at 2, 4, and 6 months
- Only high-risk children (those with asplenia, sickle cell disease, HIV infection, immunodeficiency syndromes and malignant neoplasms) should receive the booster dose

### **Pentacel Information**

- Children born on or after July 1, 2008 should use a Pentacel schedule.
- If your practice uses Pediarix, children started on Pediarix should complete the series with Pediarix. \*\*

- **Pentacel may not be used for the 4<sup>th</sup> dose of DTaP at this time and is not licensed for the fifth dose of DTaP** \*\* Daptacel, Infanrix and Kinrix are available to complete the series.
- Pentacel is licensed for use in children 6 weeks – 4 years of age (do not administer to children 5 years of age or older).
- **During the Hib shortage**, administer **ONLY** the first three doses of DTaP, IPV and Hib vaccine series. Pentacel is **not** to be used for the booster (4<sup>th</sup>) dose.
- American Indian/ Alaskan Native children – do **not** use Pentacel (PRP-OMP preferred for Hib administration to this group).

\*\*Please review the following CDC document for more information on the use of Pediarix and Pentacel: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/downloads/pentacel-guidance.pdf>

### **VACCINE ORDERING INFORMATION**

- Consult with your managing/lead physicians to determine how you will use Pentacel in your practice
- Monitor the number of doses of all vaccines in your current inventory, especially DTaP, polio, Hib, hepatitis B, and Pediarix
- When using Pentacel, remember **Pentacel can not be used for the 4<sup>th</sup> dose of IPV and DTaP at this time and is not licensed for the fifth dose of DTaP**
- If you are reducing your use of Pediarix, you will need to increase your order for hepatitis B and adjust inventories of DTaP and IPV
- Like other Hib-containing products, doses of Pentacel are limited and allocated to states by the CDC. Vaccine orders may be reduced without notice until the shortage of Hib vaccine has been resolved.

**Compliance is mandatory in order for the youngest infants to receive the first dose in the primary series**

Please contact the Immunization Division at 1-800-277-4687 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Susan A. Smith, BSN, MN, Director  
Immunization Division